

VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

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APRIL 23, 2008

IT'S YOUR NEWSPAPER



STUDENTS HAVE THEIR SAY

PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

Students from the Cal State and UC systems and California community colleges spoke out statewide Monday against the proposed \$1 billion budget cuts by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. UCLA student Evan Schulman, right, led about 100 marchers from Pershing Square to the governor's downtown Los Angeles office where they picketed and called for greater support for higher education. For video of the protest, see lavalleystar.com.

Cal Grant to be Slashed, Students Suffer

CAL GRANT FACTS

- The average Competitive Grant recipient earns \$15,645 per year, has a GPA of 3.27 and is 30 years old.
- An Entitlement Grant recipient earns on average \$29,011 per year, has a GPA of 3.10 and is 18 years old.
- Those who miss out on the Competitive Grant are on average 27 years old, have a GPA of 2.91 and earn \$18,659 per year.
- Community College students make up 58 percent of the eligible Cal Grant applicants, but receive only 45 percent of new grants.

- Facts from ticas.org

BY JAMES BENNETT
OPINION EDITOR

Students vying for the already high unattainable Cal Grant had better look elsewhere for their financial aid next fall. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed 2008-09 budget completely eliminates the "competitive" type of Cal Grant, of which the majority of recipients attend community colleges.

The abolition of the competitive Cal Grant is one part of the sweeping statewide cutbacks in the next fiscal year.

"It's stupid. People need and want to go to school. It's like pulling the rug out from underneath us" said Valley student Jorge Guerrero. "It's the difference between going to school or not."

There are two basic categories of Cal Grants, "entitlement" and "competitive." The state awards entitlement Cal Grants to recent (within one year) high school graduates with at least a grade point average of 3.0 who apply by March 2. Competitive grants go to older students and those who missed the deadline. Currently, only one in six eligible students who apply for a competitive Cal Grant receive any aid.

The grant itself is broken into two distinct pieces, aid for tuition and general aid categorically defined as "access." Access monies assist students in paying for room and board, supplies, books and transportation along with any other expenses.

Community college students receive the

see *Cal Grant* page 7

Wible Elected New ASU Pres

■ Incoming ASU president aims to increase student involvement in campus activities

BY WILL REYES
EDITOR AT LARGE

Voters overwhelmingly selected Josh Logan Wible as the new president for the 2008-2009 Associated Student Union. The vice president and four other commissioners were also elected after two days of student voting in Valley College's Monarch Square.

The voting was organized by the current ASU board and took place on April 15 and 16, attracting a total of 423 votes for the new ASU Executive Council. Wible was named the new president after collecting 322 votes.

"I'm excited at the amount of support I had, the 80 percent approval was very reassuring," Wible said. "I've already started the planning phase with some of the other [winners], the vice president particularly, where we're going to try to implement

some programs next year to really re-involve the students on the campus."

Wible said achieving greater student involvement in the student government at Valley is one of his first major goals.

"I'm sure a lot of people have noticed how a lot of activities on campus are getting smaller and smaller," Wible said. "As far as clubs days, less people are coming out and there are less culturally themed events. Even the voting in and of itself had a low turnout."

The 423-vote total was one of the lowest in the last five years, a problem that is also recognized by the current ASU President, Mari Kiridjian.

"I would like to have seen more students getting involved and applying for positions," Kiridjian said. "Last year, there were [many] more students who

see *Elections* page 7



PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN / VALLEY STAR

FROM A VOTER'S VIEWPOINT - Valley College student Henry Melendez mulls over his choices in the ASU elections on Wednesday in Monarch Square.

LGBTQ Will Fight Same-Sex Union Ban

BY ELIZEDA BELTRAN
NEWS EDITOR

A race for signatures to support an initiative by ProtectMarriage.com to make same-sex marriage unconstitutional aroused the participation of gay-rights coalitions and Valley College's own Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Club in an attempt to hinder the proposition from reaching ballots this November.

"The oppressive initiative is a cruel and dehumanizing attack against the LGBTQ community," said the club's president, Victor Sungkhasettee. "Due to the legal consequences of marriage, it is a fundamental human right for people to marry, regardless of the other person's sex ... Restricting gay people from these rights and discriminating against gay people are archaic, barbaric practices that need to be abolished from modern society."

The California Marriage see *Same Sex* page 7



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

PRIVACY IS ASSUMED - Valley College students who go to the on-campus health center in the north gym provide personal information that they hope stays private.

Student Health Privacy an Issue

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
NEWS EDITOR

The recent privacy breach at UCLA Medical Center, in which an administrative assistant improperly accessed more than 60 medical records, caused major embarrassment for the institution and could lead to sanctions by the California Department of Public Health.

The records of California First Lady Maria Shriver and actress Farrah Fawcett were among the ones that were viewed. Ex-Charlie's Angel Fawcett's cancer diagnosis was leaked to the media before she could inform her own family.

Many Californians may now be questioning the privacy of their own records, but Valley College students who use the Student Health Center can be assured that their records are kept confidential.

"Patients are provided copies of 'Patient's Rights,' which outlines their confidentiality in our health facility," said Sonia Nodal, physician assistant at the health center. "They are also advised of and provided a copy of 'HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices,' which also discloses our commitment of protecting their medical records."

Both of these information sheets are available to students at

see *Privacy* page 7

Speech Team Vanquishes Verbal Foes

BY WILL REYES
EDITOR AT LARGE

The Valley College speech team capped off an award-winning week at the 2008 Phi Rho Pi Community College National Speech and Debate Championship by claiming the title of best speech team in the country.

More than 450 students from 75 schools competed at the tournament, which was held April 14-19 in St. Charles, Illinois. Valley won a variety of individual and team awards in competitions ranging from public speaking events to interpretive theatre performances.

The award for the number one team was given to the school that tallied the highest number of total contest points, resulting in Valley's second national title and the first for forensics coaches Duane Smith and Josh Miller.

"We accumulated so many points that without debates, our public speaking and theater teams did so well that we claimed the top spot," Smith said. "We not only placed number one for public speaking events, but number one overall. This was just wonderful. Our students did awesome."

Valley won 12 gold medals, six silvers and five bronzes.

Marcus Hill won three golds, two silvers, a fellowship award for sportsmanship and tied with two others as the top public speaker in the nation.

"[Winning the top award] was an awesome feeling, I made a goal at the beginning of this year to strive for that," said Hill, a political science and communications major who plans to re-enroll at UCLA. "Just being there, having fun and being able to compete at my last Phi Rho Pi was one of the most amazing feelings."

Hill attributed his success to his determination and the work of his coaches and the speech program.

"It was a combination of hard work and listening to your coaches no matter what," Hill said. "If you follow directions they'll help guide you to what you want to get. They're going to coach you to the best of their abilities in order for you to win."

Twelve students from the team flew to the tournament and spent the week together.

"It's awesome knowing that there are 11 other people working just as hard as you," Hill said. "It's a great sense of unity to go out there and know you have people to lean on and have fun with."

Miller said the team's willingness to work together created a greater cohesiveness that led to their achievement.

"They have to be close to be a team," Miller said. "They're all instrumental in team success because they watch each other, practice for each other, support each other and spend a lot of time together. They need each other."

Other medalists include Ashley Bashioum, Annie Leroux, Thomas Petersen, Arthur Valenzuela, Eric Patten, LeCoya LeJeune, Corina Adaskaveg and Pariya Beheshti.



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

THE LOOK OF A WINNER - Valley College student Marcus Hill proved to be a top forensics competitor after his performance at the Phi Rho Pi Community College Nationals in Chicago April 14-19

OPINION PG. 3

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER
TEXTBOOK ETHICS - SHOULD
PROFESSORS MAKE THEIR
PUPILS BUY THEIR BOOKS?

VALLEY LIFE PGS. 4 & 5

TAKE A HIKE
BIG SANTA ANITA CANYON
PROVIDES THE SIMPLE LIFE
FOR VISITORS AND WALKERS

SPORTS PG. 6

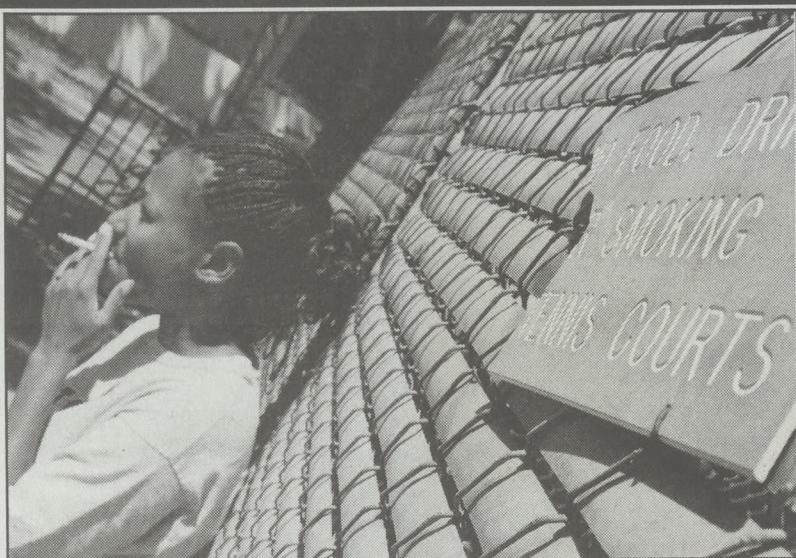
DIVE RIGHT IN
WRIGHT AND WILLIAMS
MAKE A SPLASH AT
DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

GALLERY PG. 8

BAND OF BROTHERS
A LOOK BACK OVER
THE 2008 MONARCHS
BASEBALL SEASON

Smoking Lights Up Debate on Campus

BY GRACIELA SALGADO
SPECIAL TO THE STAR



CATCH ME IF YOU CAN - Valley College student Valentina Mitchell is having a smoke by the tennis courts next to a broken 'No Smoking' sign. Mitchell believes that students should just get a warning if they violate the smoking rules on campus.

New signs announcing Valley College's smoking policy have sparked a debate about the issue and questions about the consequences of smoking outside the designated areas on campus.

The policy, as stated in the college catalog says, "smoking is prohibited on all property and all indoor and outdoor spaces owned, controlled or administered by Los Angeles Valley College except in designated areas."

Despite the policy's clear language, some people still smoke outside of designated areas, a practice that has led to student complaints and confusion about whether the college enforces it and what to do when they see someone smoking.

"[We need to] remind people who are smoking that this is a smoking restrictive campus," said Tom Jacobsmeyer, vice president of administration. "Enforcing is the sheriff's job, [but] information is everybody's job."

According to Valley Sheriff's Deputy Rick Baker, foot patrols are increased when problems are encountered in a particular area, and this tactic usually resolves the issue. If this is unsuccessful, Student Services is contacted and an incident report is completed. Students who present a continual problem can be issued a citation, and as a last resort can be jailed.

The smoking policy recently became a hot topic after the new signs reminded students of the guidelines and also warned of facing discipline for smoking outside those areas.

According to Jacobsmeyer, most of the problems involving smoking are encountered during the first few weeks of the semester, when he says most students are new to the campus and its policies.

The Math Science and Business Journalism buildings are the main problem areas students bring up, with many complaining about the lack of respect smokers have for non-smokers. Some say it's becoming a problem to walk around campus with the smell of smoke in the air.

"They need to reinforce the policy and make sure the rules are followed," said Jesus Sedano, a non-smoking theater major. "I think it's disrespectful when smokers don't care that there are some of us who wouldn't like to die of second-hand smoke."

The issue isn't lost on Jacobsmeyer, who said attempts to prohibit smoking completely from campus have been made in the past, but were unsuccessful.

"It would be virtually impractical for our campus to ban smoking entirely considering the lack of sheriffs that would be needed to control that [ban]," he said.

The recent attention has also raised concerns from smokers, who feel the areas assigned aren't well planned out.

"If they're planning on actually enforcing the policy, they need to start creating more open spaces as designated smoking areas,"

see *Smoking* page 7

What Transfer Students Need To Know

BY KRISTEN BECKER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Although many students expect the hard work of the transfer process to end once they apply, the work really begins when the fat envelopes come in the mail, offering congratulations on acceptance to a four-year university.

One of the hardest decisions a student has to make is where to go to school. Synthia Saltoun, the director of the Valley College's Career/Transfer Center advises students not only to tour potential choices and talk to people from the school's admissions department, but to also talk to people within their chosen major.

Since academic departments at different colleges will emphasize diverse aspects of that field, "It's important to visit the departments that they're majoring in and see what they're specializations in to make sure it's a good fit," Saltoun said.

Jami Brakin, a communications major who will be transferring this fall, echoes Saltoun's

advice. "Check out the schools you're transferring to," she said. "Don't have your mind set on just one school. Go to different schools and walk around; it's good to be on the actual campus."

Because acceptance to any university is dependant on completing the necessary units by the time you transfer, students should have filed for a Cal State or IGETC verification of their required courses. Nicole Valdez, career guidance counseling assistant intern at the Career/Transfer Center, advised students who have not yet done so to meet with their counselor.

Valdez also recommends that students keep their contact information current. Students should also make sure that the schools they have applied to have the necessary documents. For the Cal State system, students should have submitted an official copy of their transcripts. This is not necessary for the UCs; students will be notified when to submit transcripts. According to Saltoun, transcripts are usually due by July 15.

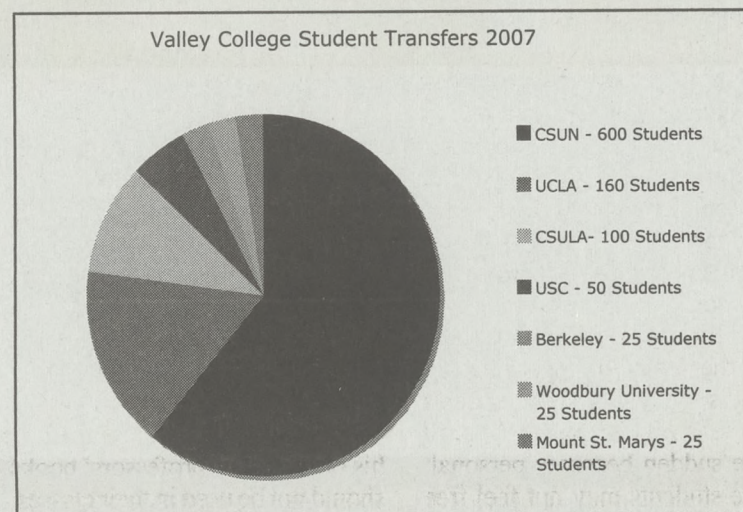
Students should visit their

counselor to make sure they meet the requirements of the university and the program they have applied to.

"Make sure you will have completed 60 transferable units before you will begin your first semester at the 4 year institution," Valdez said. "Make sure those classes include the lower division major requirements for your major. If you don't know what these classes are visit the Career/Transfer Center."

In addition to keeping track of their progress, Brakin also suggests students not "keep seeing the same counselor; get a different opinion." Brakin found out after meeting with a different counselor that she was nine units short of what she needed to graduate and transfer.

The Career/Transfer Center is open Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is located in Admissions 126. A workshop on how to transfer is held in the center from 1 to 2 p.m. every Monday. The center also hosts representatives from various universities throughout the week.



ASTRID SEIPELT, NEWS EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

CSUN CONNECTION - An overwhelming number of Valley College students chose to transfer to CSUN in 2007, followed in smaller numbers by UCLA and CSULA. All transfer numbers are approximate.

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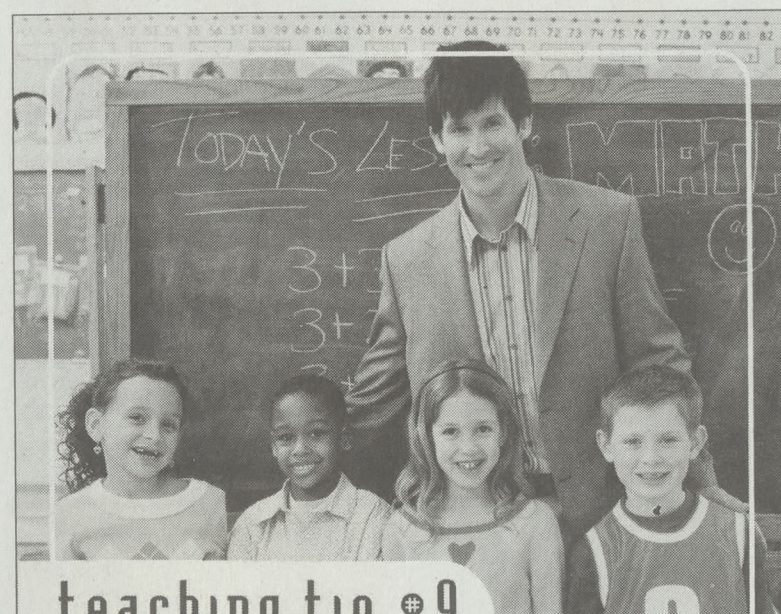
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teaching tip #9

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Tax Plan Leaves Bad Taste for Drinkers

BY SHEILA KOOCHAK
STAFF WRITER

Democratic California assemblyman Jim Beall Jr. has proposed legislation that would increase tax on beer with an aim to fund crime prevention, health care and programs to fight underage drinking and addiction.

Beall's new proposed legislation would increase tax on beer that would generate about \$2 billion a year in the state of California.

"Beer is the alcohol of choice for under-age drinkers," Beall told KNBC. "Research tells us

that kids who begin drinking before they are 15 are more prone to become alcoholics. They are also more susceptible to alcohol-related problems such as vehicle accidents and assaults later in life than people who wait until they are 21 or older to take their first drink."

Beall, a former Santa Clara County supervisor, claimed the tax could make it more difficult for teens to obtain beer due to its higher price.

"As a minor who drinks, I don't really care," said Valley student Angela Varnes. "Either way, we're all still going to buy or get hold of beer, both minors and adults."

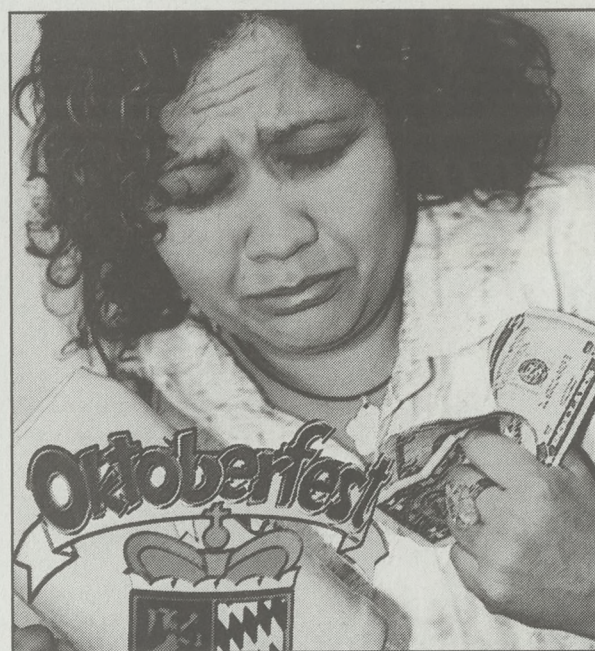
Beall stated the tax could help fund money for emergency and trauma care, prevention and intervention programs, crime prevention, mental health services and treatment, victim assistance, school counseling, and programs to prevent underage drinking.

The current tax per 12-ounce can or bottle is two cents, but the San Jose Democrat proposes raising the beer tax by \$1.80 per six-pack, or 30 cents per can - an increase of approximately 1,500 percent.

"Did you know in actuality that would mean that tax on a barrel of beer could go from the current price of about seven dollars to almost 90 dollars?" said student Mario Hernandez. "It doesn't matter though because no matter what, under-aged drinkers would still find a way to get their beer."

A two-thirds majority of the Legislature and voters is necessary to get the tax hike approved. If passed, it would be the first new tax on beer

see *Beer Tax* page 7



GRACIELA SALGADO / VALLEY STAR

TEAR IN HER BEER? - Money is tight enough without a new tax on, of all things, beer.

This Week in History

VALLEY April 23,
STAR 1987

Life on the Line - A toddler owed her life to Valley College custodian Manny Ramirez after the little girl ran onto the road in front of a truck by San Fernando Elementary School. Ramirez, who was picking up his own children

from school said that he felt god had sent him there that day.

Fur Flies Over Felines - The feral cats around campus, who had taken root around five years before, were causing concern for some students, particularly over claims that they carried diseases. Student Suzanne Matthews called for her fellow pupils to give donations so that the cats could be spayed and neutered, fed and sheltered.

Rock the Vote - The Los Angeles Community College

District received a clear message about faculty layoffs when a new Board of Trustees was elected. Incumbent trustee Harold Garvin was the runaway winner, and his reelection meant that layoffs in the district would be put on the backburner.

Stars in Our Eyes - Valley College played host to Hollywood stalwart Danny De Vito, who was filming scenes for his movie "Throw Momma From The Train." Actor Billy Crystal, while not on campus, co-stars with De Vito.

OPINION

3

Tumultuous Textbooks

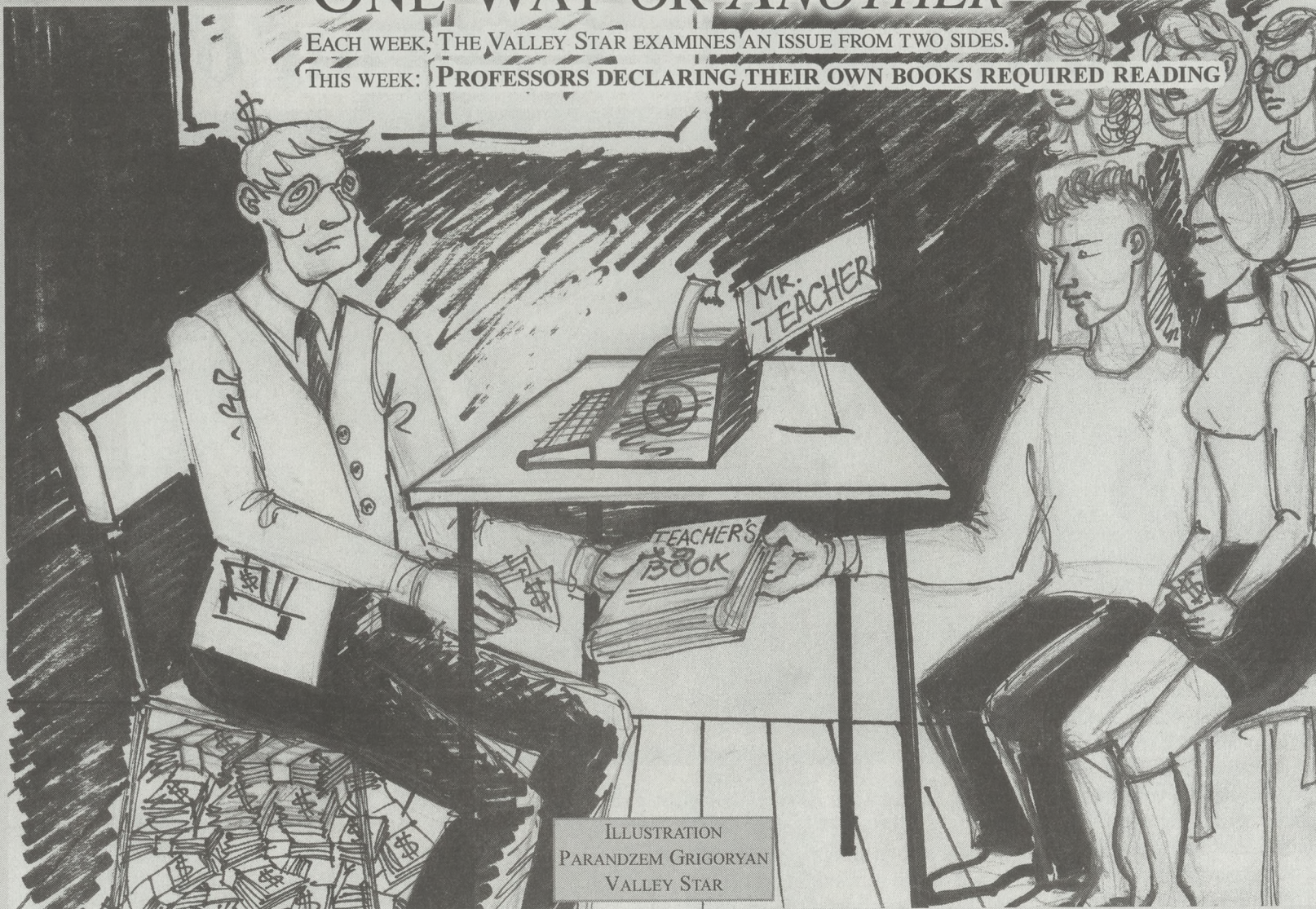
BY ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

A torrent of words drown a white board where the phrase, "critical thinking" seems to survive the fall of your interest. You could be sitting in an English class, history class, or any other class, because all classes require the use of critical thinking skills. Then, suddenly you hear your professor say, "Turn to page 68 of your textbook and let's take a look at what I have to say. Well, it seems I agree with myself."

Believe it or not, this is a familiar story in some classrooms across Valley College—professors acting as salesmen, making their authored books required texts for their students. Although some might not see a problem with this, deeper examination will reveal that such cases compromise objectivity in the classrooms for both professor and pupil. So, because there might be a probable violation of objectivity in the classroom, professors should not be allowed to sell their books to their students.

The first thing that comes into question is the book's adequacy. What makes a book good and better than the rest of the books omitted from the curriculum? Of course, what book is used is completely left to the professors, but if a textbook that has been written by the instructor is chosen, then questions arise from the students as to why this book is being used, perhaps self interest.

With this in mind, there also comes the issue of profit. Professors' greatest reward from teaching should be how well the students learn, not how much money they can put in their pockets. And



although instructors may or may not make any revenue, the appearance of it can make a student reconsider the instructors' motivation to use their own book.

Another problem that comes into the picture is the criticism that comes with every book. Can a student feel free to point out a grammar mistake, an equivocation of fact, or false logic in the professor's tome? It is no longer a student saying, "I don't agree with the historian regarding his analysis of WWI," or "I don't like the author's writing." It all of the sudden becomes personal, where students may not feel free

to express themselves. And if they comment, they might fear their assessment of the textbook could cause some friction between them and their pedagogue.

Another thing that can be said about this is that these books are not resalable at the bookstore. So, once the class is finished, students are forced to either keep them or find out when that class is being offered next semester in order to sell them to students taking that course.

For the same reason that a teacher's child is not placed in his or her class, professors' books should not be used in their classes.

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES.

THIS WEEK: PROFESSORS DECLARING THEIR OWN BOOKS REQUIRED READING

A Very Sly Solution

BY JAMES BENNETT
OPINION EDITOR

I once paid \$120 for a German textbook. Although I never learned to sprechen ze deutsch, I was still out 15 hours of work or two hours of mediocre Texas Hold 'em. Textbook prices leave many students playing 52 pick up with their credit scores, but why? The fact of the matter is, everyone makes money off textbooks except students. As the Valley Star reported last week, the bookstore across the street made 200 large during the first two weeks

of the semester; sprechen ze money?

Authors and companies compose a book. They sell the book to a publisher. The publisher sells the book to a bookstore. The author makes some money, the publisher makes some money, and the bookstore makes some money. A college student works for minimum wage, goes to the bookstore, spends their money, and eats bread for a month. Everybody wins except the low guy on the totem pole. Only professors can lower textbook prices: vigilante style.

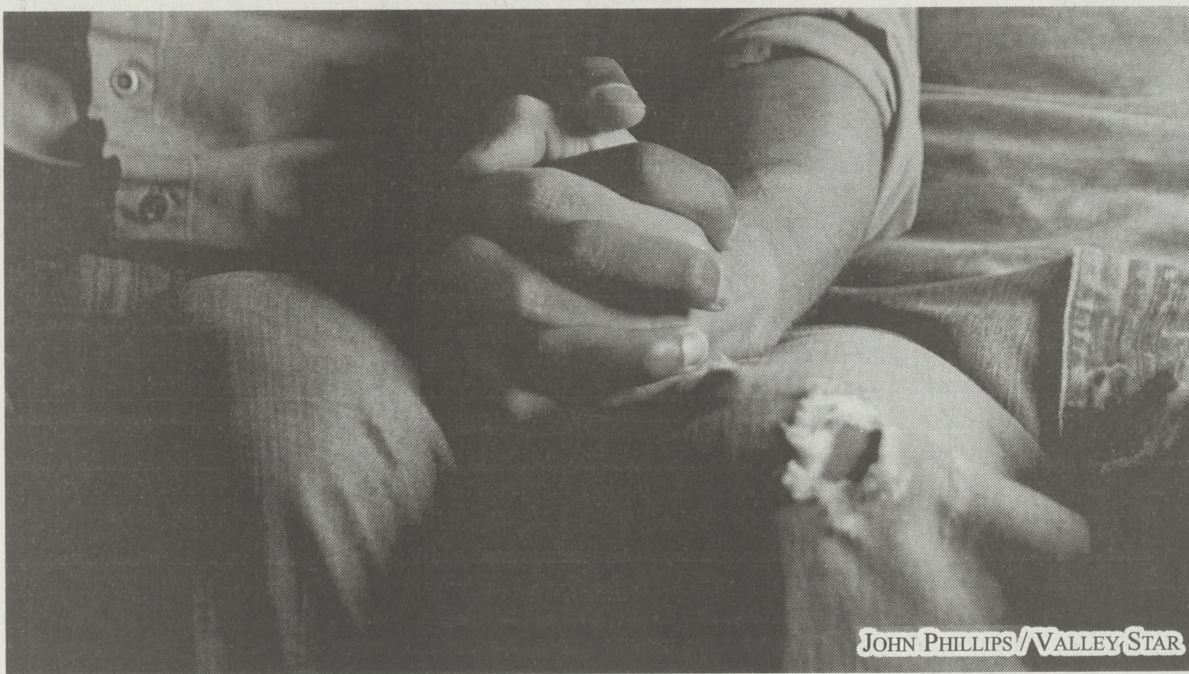
Here's a novel idea: grab all those middlemen and throw them in the proverbial guillotine for some French revolution festivities. Several Valley professors have done just that, taken the textbook aristocracy and paraded their decapitated heads before their classrooms by selling their own books.

Last semester I enrolled in an unnamed class. The required text was written and distributed by Valley faculty. On the first day of class, several students waited outside after to pawn their contraband textbooks to next semester's cattle. For a mere \$20, I acquired my required text; moreover, the bookstore came to me. Talk about service.

Furthermore, it's safe to assume that a college professor is smart enough to know that they're not going to get rich selling \$20 books at a \$3 profit. If they wanted to get rich, they probably wouldn't be teaching at a community college in the first place. I have yet to see any Lamborghini's parked in the staff lot.

Students fear that a professor using his or her own textbook compromises the integrity of the class and that a professor's personal biases will bleed into the curriculum without a neutral party, cleverly disguised as a textbook. The fallacy here is the inane notion that students are barred from reading outside material. Heaven forbid students read for the purpose of greater understanding and/or knowledge.

Now, although I can't sprechen ze deutsch or Parlez-vous Francais, I can play poker. I got two aces in the pocket: cheap books and the ability to consult outside sources to confirm neutrality and factual correctness. On the flop, I get three more awesome cards: sticking it to the publishers, the tyrants at the bookstore, and the man. I don't need to see what's on the turn or the river to know it's time for me to go all in, baby. Jackpot.



Just Say Yes to Same Sex Marriage

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
NEWS EDITOR

I admit it. I am a complete woman and I dream of one day walking down the aisle and getting married. I can't wait for the day that I can start planning my wedding, but then I realize that not everyone else has the chance of that same happiness.

The proposed California constitutional amendment aims to make marriage valid only between a man and a woman and will also void certain rights and obligations for same- and opposite-sex couples registered as domestic partners, such as health benefits and child custody. How can it even be considered constitutional to bar a group of people from getting married and gaining the same benefits as the rest of society?

I thought that as a people, we were moving away from such blatant discrimination. But there are still opponents of same-sex marriage who blurt that "Gay Marriage will ruin society" and "Gay Marriages makes marriage less meaningful for everyone." Massachusetts has had legal same sex marriage for four years and the last time I heard, they are doing fine. The sun still rises and sets, society is continuing to function normally, and nobody

seems to be defecting out of state.

And as for marriage becoming less meaningful, maybe all these gay marriage opponents need to take a trip to Vegas and observe all the 'meaningful' quickie weddings that go on there.

There is also the argument that "the children will suffer" without a male and female role model. So if this is true, we better put a blanket ban on all the single moms and dads in California raising their children alone, because it looks like their kids' lives are going down the toilet.

Any arguments that same-sex marriage will increase the divorce rate are also ludicrous. A study published in Psychology Today magazine in 2006 found that in Denmark, where same sex marriage has been legal since 1989, the rate of homosexual divorces was 17 percent, while heterosexual divorce was more than double that, at 46 percent.

At least Gov. Schwarzenegger has some sense, saying he strongly opposes outlawing same-sex marriage and he will "always be there to fight against that." He also said that the initiative was a "waste of time" and predicted that Californians would defeat it if it makes the November ballot. If only all the other politicians in Sacramento

had the same brains, then we could be tackling more important social issues, like healthcare or education.

Placing a ban on same-sex marriage is just ridiculous, and proponents of the initiative need to remove their blinders and take a look at reality. All people gay, straight or anywhere in between deserve the right to take the step of making their love legal. Denying the right of marriage to anyone will destroy the social fabric more than anything else could.

No Help for Hungry

BY KRISTEN BECKER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Equal access to a quality education should be a basic human right, not a privilege reserved only for those students whose parents can afford it. Unfortunately many politicians, including California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, believe that funding both for public schools and the aid that makes it possible for lower-income students to receive a good education is expendable.

In his proposed 2008-09 budget, Schwarzenegger wants to cut \$40 million from the community college budget. Although this cut would undoubtedly lead to higher fees for students, he also wants to completely phase out the Cal Grant's competitive program, which provides the majority of its awards to community college students.

"Now, what I find most troubling is the variety of ways that we treat those who need our help the most — one year up and the next year down," Schwarzenegger said during his State of the State speech in January. "We cannot continue to put people

through the binge and purge of our budget process. It is not fair. It is not reasonable. It's not in the best interest of anyone."

Although he claims he does not want those who can least afford it to have to bear the brunt of the consequences of budget cuts, the governor still decided to try to cut a program that, according to the California Legislative Analyst Office, provides three-fifths of its awards to community college students.

The office also stated that "students are more likely to receive an award if they received a GED, have been out of high school for several years, or attended a high school with a low college-going rate"

In other words, the governor wants to cut a program that gives aid to those who need it most and have the lowest odds of getting to college.

Valley College Financial Aid Director Barbara Ralston explained the real-life consequences these cuts could have on Valley students.

"I think you'll probably see students who normally have qualified for a Cal Grant B, they may feel that there's no other alternative and they have to work

instead of go to school, which will be catastrophic," she said. "You'll have other students who will be borrowing loans, which they normally would not have even thought of to be able to continue with their education; they'll be borrowing loans to cover that gap in their financial aid award."

It is impossible to overstate the importance of education. While it may not be the cure-all for society's ills, it provides a reasonable and relatively successful way out of poverty. When talking about the abysmal performance of many of California's K-12 schools, Schwarzenegger lamented, "These are children lost in the black hole of ignorance, poverty and crime."

Unfortunately, it is likely that his cuts to the Cal Grant program will also cut the chance these children have to receive a college education. Rather than making it more difficult for disadvantaged students to attend institutes of higher education, the state's leaders, budget crisis or not, have a responsibility to ensure the college is just as real a possibility to these students as it is to their wealthier peers.

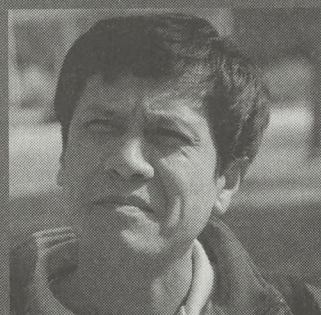
CAMPUS View

photos by Scott Mitchell / Valley Star



"It's good except for sometimes the professor thinks it's the only good book for the class. I felt the teacher relied on the book rather than his teaching methods"

-Alison Shannon,
dental hygiene



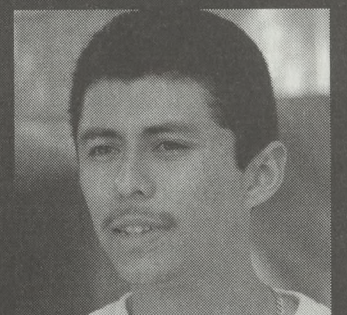
"Not a good idea. They don't have the right. If they write the book themselves, they're instilling their own ideas and opinions. It's not good at all."

-Ha Nguyen,
business



"You learn from their experience. They're able to provide the information, and it makes students want to learn more and write their own book some day."

-Lawanda Baker
child development



"Sometimes it's good. It can be unethical due to the money involved. It can be good. It also depends on the subject and as long as it's not mandatory to get a good grade"

-Danny Fuentes,
environmental studies

How do you feel about professors selling/requiring their own books?

LAVC
EVENTS

Wednesday, April 23

ASU Club Day @ 9 am-2 pm
(Monarch Square) - Contact:
Associated Student Union (818) 778-
5516

LAVC Library "Evaluating Websites
Workshop" @ 10:30-11:30 am (LAIR
Computer Lab) - Contact: LAVC
Library (818) 947-2425 <http://www.lavc.edu/Library/workshopsched.html>

Photography Exhibition "Impossible
to Forget: The Nazi Camps Fifty
Years After" - by Michael Kenna @
11 am-2 pm & 6-9 pm (LAVC Art
Gallery); Admission: Free - Contact:
Art Gallery (818) 778-5536 <http://www.lavc.edu/arts/artgallery.html>

Photography Exhibition "Wounded
in America" - Rotating Exhibit @
11 am-2 pm & 6-9 pm (Art Building
Hallway Exhibit Cases); Admission:
Free - Contact: Dennis Reed (818)
947-2625

Thursday, April 24

LAVC Library "Evaluating Websites
Workshop" @ 8:30-9:30 am (LAIR
Computer Lab) - Contact: LAVC
Library (818) 947-2425 <http://www.lavc.edu/Library/workshopsched.html>

Photography Exhibition "Impossible
to Forget: The Nazi Camps Fifty
Years After" - by Michael Kenna @
11 am-2 pm & 6-9 pm (LAVC Art
Gallery); Admission: Free - Contact:
Art Gallery (818) 778-5536 <http://www.lavc.edu/arts/artgallery.html>

Photography Exhibition "Wounded
in America" - Rotating Exhibit @
11 am-2 pm & 6-9 pm (Art Building
Hallway Exhibit Cases); Admission:
Free - Contact: Dennis Reed (818)
947-2625

Career/Transfer Center Spring 2008
Speaker Series "Careers in Law"
@ 1-2 pm (Foreign Language 102)
- Contact: Career/Transfer Center
(818) 947-2646

Friday, April 25

LAVC Library "Evaluating Websites
Workshop" @ 12 noon-1 pm (LAIR
Computer Lab) - Contact: LAVC
Library (818) 947-2425 <http://www.lavc.edu/Library/workshopsched.html>

Saturday, April 26

Concert - Martha Masters, Guitar
@ 8 pm (Music 106); Admission:
\$10-\$15 - Contact: Music Dept (818)
947-2347

Think Transfer!

Fall 2008 UC and CSU priority
transfer application deadline is
November 30. Apply on line at
www.universityofcalifornia.edu/
apply or www.csumentor.edu

Guarantee your admission to
a UC by participating in a UC
Transfer Admission Guarantee
Program. For program informa-
tion, qualifications and applica-
tions visit the Career/Transfer
Center, Adm. 126, or call (818)
947-2646. All events held in the
Career/Transfer Center.
All events held in Career/Transfer
Center unless otherwise indicat-
ed. Call (818) 947-2646 for further
information.

Wednesday, April 23
UC Santa Cruz Rep 10-12
UC Irvine Rep 10-1
Undecided career/major workshop
1-2

Thursday, April 24
Careers in Law Speaker 1-2
Foreign Language Bldg. 102
Undecided career/major workshop
5:30-6:30

Friday, April 25
UCLA Stomp Conference bus trip
8-4

Additional content
online - Go to
www.lavalleystar.com

Valley Travel

Big Santa Anita Canyon offers Solace

ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

The rhythm of the city has a way of giving me a fever for melting clocks. This was the case on a Friday morning, when I said "basta" to universal time and packed my backpack with bottled water and a box of granola bars—the rituals for a day of hiking.

I headed to the Big Santa Anita Canyon in Arcadia, bought a \$5 parking permit at the Pack Station and descended the trail. More than 40 miles of forestland lay before me. While the concrete road pointed toward Sturtevant Falls, one of the highest, at 55 feet, and most popular waterfalls, I took the "one less traveled by" and headed toward Hermit Falls.

It was midday and the air was instantly unrecognizable; it flowed through my lungs like holy water. The dirt trails are steep and the sun will claw its rays on your back, but the sound of trickling water from the First Water Trail will encourage you to keep going.

The fresh breeze from the cascade is seducing and I found a steady rock near the water. As I sat there, the water cradled me with its undulating emerald hands.

Time seemed to stand still, but with a sudden jerk, I got up and kept on my journey. The mile walk was dotted with three cabins, nestled under the shade of shaggy trees. After ambling for 35 minutes, I arrived at Hermit Falls.

Cool running water galloped through the steep, white canyons that make up Hermit Falls and leaped into a lower pool. I



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR/ VALLEY STAR

PEACEFUL EASY FEELING - Sturtevant Falls is located in Big Santa Anita Canyon in the Angeles National Forest. It's not unusual to see hikers and bikers making the trek to this restful spot. See exclusive video at www.lavalleystar.com

descended into an upper basin and rested on the surrounding rocks, while I ran my fingers through the ice-cold water.

After my rest, I went back on the route toward Sturtevant Falls through the Gabrielino Trail, but a mile before reaching the falls, I decided to go back.

On my way back, I saw two men on the road, one in grey shorts and a red hat, half covering his grey hair and another who called himself "the good-looking blond." I picked up my pace and caught up with them. They said "hi," and I said "hi" back. This is one thing you'll notice about

the people here, their friendliness. We entered into a conversation and I found out that they were

"It's wonderful; there's no running water, no toilets; we just have the houses with no electricity. You got to chop your wood, just do all of that stuff. It's fantastic."

- Arlen Farajian

both cabins owners.

The recreational cabins were built between 1907 and 1936. In

the early years, this was a booming economy, but the late 1920s saw a decline in hiking. Today, only 80 of the original 350 cabins remain.

Arlen Farajian, the good-looking blond, bought his cabin 35 years ago.

I asked him how he liked it here. "It's wonderful; there's no running water, no toilets; we just have the houses with no electricity. You got to chop your wood, just do all of that stuff. It's fantastic," he responded with a laugh.

The cabin owners rely on the Pack Station store for supplies year round. Mules and horses can

be seen traveling down the road.

While on the subject of animals, Farajian's companion, Jack Scheck, shared his own knowledge. "We have a whole gamut of animals here," he said "We got Fox, we got coyotes, and we got ringtail cats, mountain lions, raccoons, and squirrels."

"A bear once broke into my cabin," interrupted Farajian.

We soon parted, but not before hearing Farajian yell from a far, "The way back is a bitch."

As I headed up the road I suddenly realized that an uphill battle lay before me.



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR/ VALLEY STAR

LEADING THE WAY - Valley College student David Lavaggi, who is blind, is getting to know his possible new guide dog Trooper under the guidance of trainer Mindy Romero.

Seeing Eye Dog Offers a New Leash on Life

SHANNON MCHUGH
STAFF WRITER

The lazy spring sun peaked through the trees in the staff parking lot of Valley College in front of the physics building Tuesday afternoon. The resonance of eight legs shuffling through the fallen leaves on the sidewalk was the only sound to be heard. There were two people, a man and a woman.

The last two pairs of legs did not belong to two separate people, but to Candie: a four-legged friend of the pair she began her stroll with. Candie, a golden Labrador, is not a student at Valley College, at least not yet. She came to the campus with Mindy Romero of Guide Dogs of the Desert with one goal in mind: to meet the legally-blind man, David Lavaggi, and possibly become his pick as his new seeing-eye dog.

"Guide Dogs of the Desert seeks applicants that are legally blind and hope to find a dog for them that fits their personalities and lifestyle to go through our training class for a guide dog," said Romero. "We feel that David is more than capable to find a match with one of the dogs we have brought him to see today."

Lavaggi has past experience with guide dogs, having a dog named Tami for 10 years, which makes him even more quali-

fied to earn one. As a blind man, Lavaggi has been finding his way around the Valley campus using a cane rather than a guide dog his entire time here, and has decided that with his move to Cal State Northridge next fall, he could use the extra help that a guide dog offers.

"Maneuvering around a campus with a cane requires a more front-line mentality," said Lavaggi. "But with a dog, it is a little more laid back. You can sort of turn your brain off a little bit. I've been using a cane for two years now and I think I am looking for a little more of a laid back feeling for when I go to CSUN."

Candie was not the only dog that Lavaggi tested; he also got to test Trooper, a golden Labrador Retriever who is significantly larger in stature than Candie. Size is a major factor when determining a candidate for a guide dog, and Lavaggi noted that he preferred a smaller dog.

"Smaller dogs are better for me," he said. "Candie is much smaller, and she'd be easier to fit into friends' vehicles and get around with."

As he walked with both dogs, calling out familiar commands to them, both dogs reacted in different ways. Candie was happy and responsive to David, although she needed his matter-of-fact

see Dog page 5

Good Vital Signs for Health Fair

WILL REYES
EDITOR AT LARGE

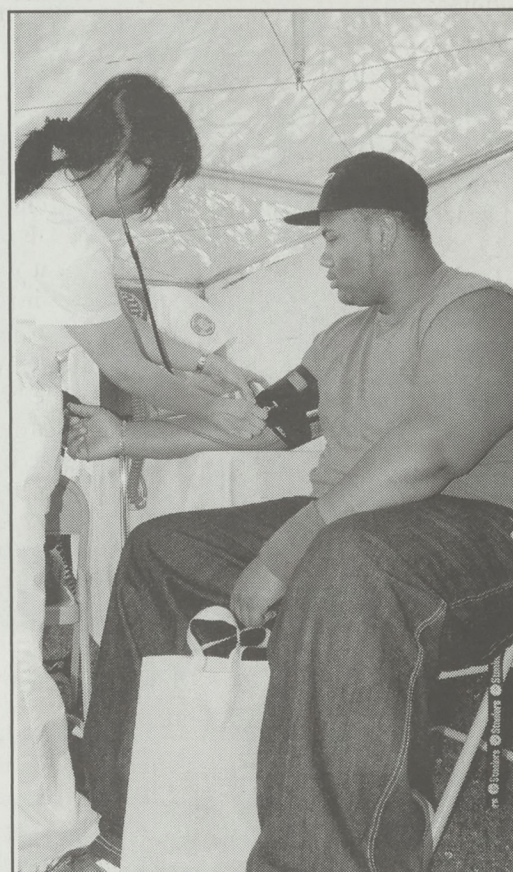
Monarch Square was bustling with activity April 16 as hundreds of students gathered inside the tall circus-like tents at the Valley College Health Fair.

More than 300 students stopped throughout the day at the second annual fair, which was organized by Valley's Health Fair coordinator Laura Camberos and the Student Health Center.

The fair featured community and campus resources that provided a variety of examinations, educational material and even some massages. Live musical performances, dancers and healthy food choices, such as salads, were also available to fit the fair's theme of "My Health, My Future."

"It's very important to learn healthy behaviors now as a young adult," said Camberos, citing that half of Valley's student body is 18-24 years old. "The behaviors that you pick up now will stay with you for the rest of your life. Even if you're not thinking of it now, you'll notice it later. Learning good habits are going to help you live a longer, healthier life."

see Fair page 5



PARANZEM GRIGORYAN/ VALLEY STAR

HEALTHY NEWS - Valley College students made time to get their blood pressure checked among other medical screenings.

Hubbard Jams at Birthday Bash

JAMES BENNETT
OPINION EDITOR

Like a fine wine, jazz gets better with every passing year. Nestled deep on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood the Catalina Bar and Grill features high caliber performers on a nightly basis. If there's any time to appreciate jazz, it's April, Jazz Appreciation Month. On Thursday, April 10, the grill hosted jazz legend Freddie Hubbard's 70th birthday.

An elegantly dressed crowd of jazz aficionados filled the lavishly adorned room of burgundy walls and mahogany furniture; the dim lightning glinting off the impeccably kept grand piano on stage. Subdued conversation quickly hushed as the green room door slowly creaked open.

The best dressed man in the house soon emerged; Freddie Hubbard in a finely tailored suit and trumpet in hand. The stage came to life at 8:30 p.m. as Hubbard and his all-star band took their places. Aided by saxophonists James Spaulding and Craig Handy, trombonist Slide Hampton and pianist George Cables the performance resonated throughout the Hollywood hills from beginning to end.

see Hubbard page 5



SCOTT MITCHELL/ VALLEY STAR

JAZZ LEGEND TURNS 70-Jazz giant, Freddie Hubbard celebrated his 70th birthday with friends and an all-star band at the Catalina Bar.

VALLEY LIFE

5

Eat, Drink, Be Merry

■ The 46th Annual Renaissance Pleasure Faire returns again to conquer the Southland.

JONATHAN GIBBY
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The Renaissance Pleasure Faire challenges residents of Southern California to "Escape Reality...Live the Fantasy." With more than 2,000 costumed performers and 14 stages of continuous entertainment spread around the village, guests can't help but fall into character themselves. It does not take long before they are speaking with the language out of some Dickens novel and drinking Guinness out of a stein fit for a king.

When the Faire began in 1963, the aim was to create

"living history" for schoolchildren and their families. Now in its 46th year, the lively re-creation of the 16th century English "Golden Age" indulges all the senses and allows guests to live history through the taste of Shepherd's Pye and the sounds of Shakespeare that resonate throughout the marketplace.

"The Faire is all about the people, they bring this village to life," said Renaissance Pleasure Faire spokeswoman Colleen Russell. "From the handmade goods to the enter-



JONATHAN GIBBY ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR/ VALLEY STAR
LIVING HISTORY - Performers re-enact a dance typical of the English "Golden Age" at the 46th Annual Renaissance Pleasure Faire in the City of Irwindale.

tainment, everything is created for this event."

If you plan on attending, make a conscious decision before hand to embrace the Faire's motto to "Eat, Drink and Be Merry." The Faire is running on weekends through May 18 at the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area in the City of Irwindale.

With a \$10 discount for college students with

a valid ID, this opportunity is not to

be missed by any of Valley College's lords and ladies. For more information visit www.ren-fair.com.

"The Faire is all about the people, they bring this village to life, from the handmade goods to the entertainment, everything is created for this event."

- Colleen Russell
Renaissance Pleasure Faire Spokeswoman



JONATHAN GIBBY, ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR/ VALLEY STAR
YOU ARE WHAT YOU WEAR - Clothing during the 16th century directly reflected the social status of the wearer.



JONATHAN GIBBY ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR/ VALLEY STAR
Dance of Death - Members of the Dance Macabre Guild dance to mock death in order to celebrate life.

'Dog'

Continued from page 4

style of command to keep her in check, while Trooper was more sensitive to his commands, but much more comfortable walking the campus along with the distractions of people walking by, or stopping and looking.

Although he did not make a decision, he sure was noticed on campus. Dogs are not a usual sight on the Valley campus, so it is no surprise that many students stopped and stared as Lavaggi, Romero and Trooper walk by, but sometimes a person who is unfamiliar to a guide dog can cause more harm than good by actually walking up to them.

"It's tempting to go up to a dog on campus," said Romero. "You should never approach a dog you don't know, though, especially a guide dog. Coming up to a guide dog and interfering with his work is like pulling a steering wheel away from a driver, which is very dangerous."

She said that it was better to admire from afar than to engage a dog in unwanted interaction. After all, while at Valley, Candie or Trooper would be considered "on the clock" and working, so interrupting their work would not help David get where he needs to be.

On Campus

Guest Speaker

Mary Bauer, a survivor of Auschwitz, and Zenon Neumark, the author of "Hiding in the Open," who escaped from a labor camp and adopted a false identity as a Polish Catholic to avoid Nazi detection, will speak beginning at 7p.m. on April 30, in conjunction with the Art Gallery exhibition, "Impossible to Forget: The Nazi Camps Fifty Years After-Photographs by Michael Kenna." The talk will be in Art History Lecture Hall 103. Please contact Dennis Reed (818) 947-2625.

'Hubbard'

Continued from page 4

Hubbard himself, in all his many years had a bit of trouble producing his trumpet famous tunes. He can be forgiven, however, at 70 years old with a long list of impressive works, a mishap here and there is expected, and almost appreciated.

The band covered him nicely, performing various solos, including a several- minutes long jazz flute piece. The saxophonists blew the hats off the front row and once Freddie got going, he blew the room out of their boots.

It's a rare treat to see a real true-blue musical pioneer on

stage. Hubbard put his first notes on vinyl in 1960 with "Open Sesame," a hard-bop album released by Blue Note records. He continued releasing albums every year through 1981. He put out his last record, "Live at Fat Tuesday," in 1992. To top off his incredible resume, Hubbard received the National Endowment of the Arts Jazz Masters award in 2006.

The Catalina Bar and Grill charges a \$25 cover fee. However, Monday through Friday, they offer a 50 percent discount to students with a valid ID. The food and bar, while a bit on the pricey side, are delectable, the service is excellent, and the atmosphere is unbeatable.



SCOTT MITCHELL/ VALLEY STAR
BLOW DADDY-Freddie Hubbard on stage at the Catalina Bar and Grill celebrating his 70th birthday in style.

'Fair'

Continued from page 4

Camberos said some of the day's largest crowds came out during the onstage performances from the Valley Players, a college faculty band, and workout routines from Patty's aerobic dancers. One of the most popular booths belonged to the Valley respiratory therapy program, with anxious students lining up to have their lungs and heart rate checked.

"This test is important for everyone to have checked," said Grigori Galstyan, a respiratory student administering the test. "It basically tells you your lungs, ability to breathe healthy."

Galstyan said that most of the students had normal lung values, and that if anyone was outside of an acceptable range, they were advised to visit a doctor for further testing.

The event took place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and left a positive impression with many students, who were able to get their body fat measured, get tested for sexually transmitted diseases and also learn about insurance options.

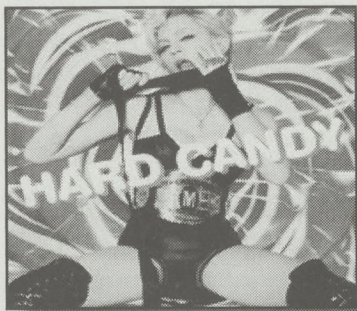
"I enjoyed it, it gives a lot of information about yourself that you wouldn't know," said Abran Talavera, a chemistry and etymology major. "I visited the Blue Cross booth because a lot of students here don't have insurance, and I found out that for me it costs less."

This year's fair was much larger than the last one, attracting more useful programs for students, something the health center said was important to them.

"We do this to have the students realize what resources are on campus for health services as well as all the great community resources out there," said Sonya Nodal, the health center's physician's assistant. "The fact that we were able to reach out to so many more students this year than last year is great."

CD Review

Madonna's "Hard Candy" is Sweet and Sour



COURTESY WARNER BROS./WEA

BRAD TAYLOR
MANAGING EDITOR

On her 11th studio album "Hard Candy," Madonna channels Lara Croft and plays tune raider as she mines from current pop tarts to offer a mixed bag of treats with only a few new tricks.

With her 50th birthday on the horizon, her royal Madgesty seems to be struggling not to become an immaterial girl by recruiting the flavor of the month producer Timbaland as well as boy toy boy-band refugee Justin Timberlake to freshen up her image.

The debut track "4 Minutes" is an over-complicated dance song that may have been left over from Gwen Stefani's last album. Timberlake steals the beats from

Madonna and does what used to be impossible; he forces Maddy into the background.

Sex seems to be on the material mom's mind with "Give it 2 me," but the beat heavy song is like a soda without the fizz. It almost seems like she is just going through the motions rather than getting back to her erotic self.

Madonna claims she is "tired of the same old thing" on "Beat Goes On," but not even Sonny and Cher would touch this bland song, which is a repetitive thumping track that goes nowhere.

On the flip side, "Miles Away" is a nice blend of classic Madonna a la "Lucky Star," "Everybody" and electronica that should make fans happy and remember why they fell in love with her in the 80s. And "Dance 2 Night" reinforces the love of dance floor grooves offering a sugar high that makes you want to grab a hairbrush and lip-sync in your mirror.

The queen of pop seems to be more worried about losing her crown than creating new sounds. Has she run out of re-inventions? I tend to think of this as her keeping all her new recipes for when she heads over to her new label, Live

Nation.

"Candy" is her last album with longtime partner Warner Bros. and much like what fellow pop pioneer Prince did with his last WB album "Chaos and Disorder," Madonna seems content with leaving the label with jawbreakers rather than bubble gum.

Some may think I am being too harsh on the eclectic singer/actress/producer/designer, but it is only because we have come to expect so much more. Maybe if Madonna wasn't so busy adopting African children and ruining her husband's once promising film career, she would have time to devote to her music.

At this point in her career, Madonna is nearly bullet and review proof. Her legion of fans will follow her anywhere and her radio friendly collaborations will keep her on the charts; "4 Minutes" is already a top ten in her arsenal.

Whenever I count her out Madonna, comes back swinging. "Hard Candy" is hardly a dud, but with a market flooded with Madonna-wannabes, we need the Everlasting Gobstopper of pop to show them how it's done.

TOP 5 STORIES

@ LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

Rock Legend's Lastest Expedition
By Scott Mitchell

Valley Mourns Dedicated Employee
By Astrid Seipelt

College Debuts Recycling Plan
By Will Reyes

Art in the Time of Intolerance
By Brad Taylor

"Pop Fiction" Misses the Mark in Mocking the Media
By Astrid Seipelt

WHAT'S NEW

@ LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

CD Review E=MC2
By Sheila Koochak

Valley Jazz Band Ensemble
By Scott Mitchell

Good Vital Signs for Health Fair
By Will Reyes

Eat, Drink, Be Merry
By Jonathan Gibby

Big Santa Anita Canyon Offers Solace
By Elizeda Beltran

UPCOMING RELEASES

CD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



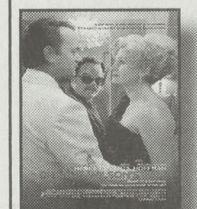
BILLY BRAGG,
MR. LOVE &
JUSTICE

OTHER RELEASES:

Blind Melon, For My Friends
Elvis Costello, Momofuku
Prodigy, H.N.I.C. Pt. 2
Story of the Year, The Black Swan

DVD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



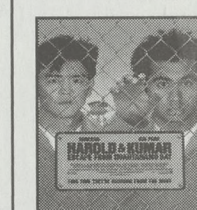
CHARLIE
WILSON'S WAR
Tom Hanks,
Julia Roberts,
Phillip Seymour
Hoffman

OTHER RELEASES:

Cloverfield
One Missed Call
The Savages
The Orphanage

FILM

PICK OF THE WEEK:



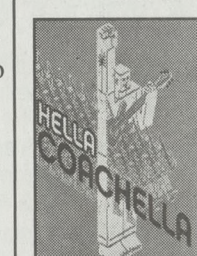
HAROLD
AND KUMAR:
ESCAPE FROM
GUANTANAMO
BAY

OTHER RELEASES:

Baby Mama, Tina Fey, Amy Poehler
Deception, Hugh Jackman, Ewan McGregor
Big Stan, Rob Schneider

CONCERT

PICK OF THE WEEK:



COACHELLA
VALLEY
MUSIC & ARTS
FESTIVAL
Jack Johnson, The
Racounters, The
Breeders Prince,
Portishead

OTHER PERFORMANCES:

Chris Rock @ The Gibson Amphitheatre
Opeth @ The Gibson Amphitheatre
Avril Lavigne @ The Gibson Amphitheatre

DON'T FORGET TO YouTube

News Reporter Runs Into Pole
Dog Jumps Out Moving Car and Rolls
Man Falling Down Stage
Trigger Happy TV- Rabbit

Additional content
online - Go to

www.lavalleystar.com

Valley Divers go to State

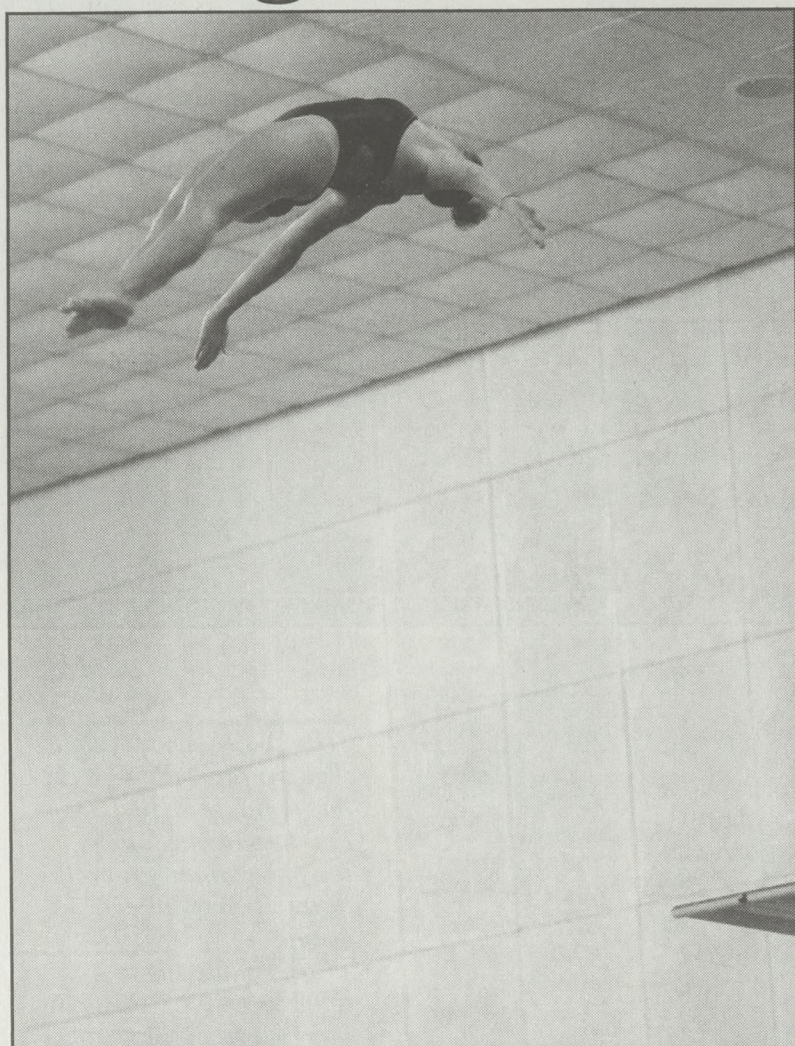
By KIMBERLEE DURAN
STAFF WRITER

Two members of the Valley College diving team are heading to the state championships. Tiffany Wright and Gene Williams qualified to advance after they competed in the 3-meter and 1-meter dive April 18 in the Diving Championship at El Camino College.

The team, consisting of Wright, Williams and Alexander Mejia competed against divers from other schools including Orange Coast, Cerritos, and Saddleback colleges. The top six female and male divers go on to compete in the California State Championship at Saddleback College.

During the competition, each diver had to perform six dives. Wright nailed her first dive and scored higher than any other of the girls in the first round. However, one minor mistake caused her to fumble her second dive and she landed flat on her back in the water, but she recovered her focus on her other dives and scored high in all of them, including getting two 7s on her last dive when no other divers got higher than a 6. Thanks to that final dive, she scored 228.95 in the 3-meter and was able to clench the win by beating her nearest competition, Nikki Burrelli of Orange Coast College, by .15 of a point.

"[Winning] was amazing, I actually didn't expect it," Wright said. "When I landed flat on my back, I had to concentrate on the rest of my dives and I thought if I clean them up a little I'll be alright. This is the prelims I just have to get ready for Saddleback." Gene Williams placed



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

DIVING TO BE A WINNER - Valley College diver Tiffany Wright glides away from the diving board at the Diving Championships at El Camino College April 18. Wright placed first in the 1-meter and 3-meter competitions and is headed to the state championships.

ninth in the 1-meter, but the next night he scored 248.08 in the 3-meter dive and was in second place. "I felt happy, but first would have been nice too, I just have to practice a lot for Saddleback" he said. "Ann [Wright], the Valley diving coach, is a great coach. She pointed out some key things in my diving that really

"When I landed on my back, I had to concentrate on the rest of my dives and I thought if I clean them up a little I'll be all right."

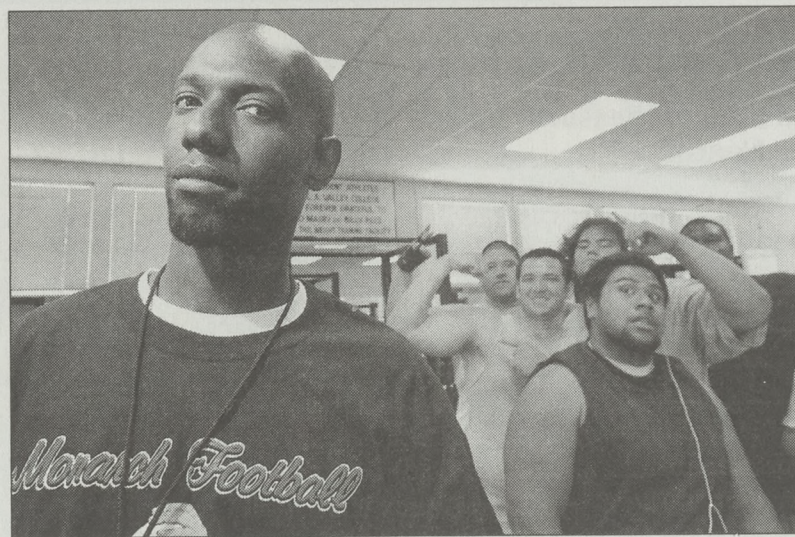
- Tiffany Wright

helped me get place second."

When asked if she coached

him differently than her daughter Tiffany, he said, "No she treats us the same, but she might be a little harder on her own daughter."

The next meet for the Monarchs is the Western State Conference Championships from April 24-26 at Ventura College.



JONATHAN GIBBY, ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

NEW LEADER OF THE LINE - New Valley College offensive line football coach Damien Porter takes a break from pre-season training with some prospective members of the Monarchs' 2008 team.

Offensive Coordinator Brings New Attitude

By KIMBERLEE DURAN
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College football team hopes for a better season than last year with help from their new offensive coordinator Dameon Porter.

The 32-year-old isn't new to coaching. He got his start at Culver City High School from 2004-2006 before serving as offensive coordinator at Pierce College last season. After bringing them from

a last place finish the previous year to a fifth place finish, the Valley College coaching staff saw a lot of potential in him.

"He's very dedicated, very focused," said head coach Jimmy Sims. "He's loyal, committed, and sticks to his word." This brings up the issue of what happened last season and the last offensive coordinator. Coach Sims wouldn't go into detail, but he stated, "He quit on us in game

two and we struggled after that. He just decided to go in another direction."

Porter added, "It's challenging sometimes because you need a full-time effort but you're only getting minimum pay."

Everyone involved is very optimistic about the new season. Coach Sims said he's more excited about the upcoming season than any other in his four years at Valley.

"I feel balanced, comfortable, and excited all at the same time."

While the coaches are hoping for a good season, they know there will be some challenges. For starters they don't know for sure who will be on the roster when their season starts. Coach Sims said, "You don't know who you are going to get until August, sometimes kids come to spring training and wind up going to another school."

However, Porter has some ideas to help his new team.

"We have to try to change the infrastructure, and recruit a different type of student athlete," he said. "We need kids with their goals in mind who look at [community college] as a stepping-stone to a four-year school. We need high caliber athletes, not kids with character issues."

AN OPINION

Gutting the House that Ruth Built

By JOE LAFLEUR
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

At the end of the 2008 baseball season, they will tear down the cathedral that is Yankee Stadium and replace it with a new \$1.3 billion super stadium, located directly across the street.

The same place that saw the Yankees win 39 American League Championships, make 37 World Series appearances and win 26 World Championships will simply be demolished. The stomping grounds of such Hall of Fame ball players as Yogi Berra, Joe Dimaggio, Whitey Ford, Lou Gehrig, Reggie Jackson, Mickey Mantle and Babe Ruth will no longer stand tall among baseball landmarks and that kills me.

The game of baseball played now is not what it used to be. There is no room for old in this game anymore. Pitchers no longer throw through pain, they throw until they reach their allowed pitch count and complete games are as rare as no hitters.

In today's game, 35 is old and at 40, you're washed up. The days of playing through injury and sickness are over. Money dictates the game instead of passion; owners, more than ever, lust after the almighty dollar and anyone who has followed baseball in the slightest knows that where there is money, there are the Yankees, led by their "Wizard of Oz," George Steinbrenner.

Steinbrenner is the man behind the Yankee machine and when the first wrecking ball collides with the outer cement of Yankee Stadium, he will have pulled off his greatest trick ever - demolishing the third oldest baseball stadium still standing, replacing it with one that is similar in look and 63 percent larger, and all while the baseball community and Yankee fans everywhere watched with awe

over his audacity.

Just like pitch counts, new stadiums are now accepted in the game of baseball. Older stadiums are being torn down, and the new ones bear the names of corporations such as the San Diego Padre's PETCO Park. It has become so common that I now long to hear the name Fenway Park spoken from the lips of other fans to reassure me that all is not lost.

One fact that we baseball fans will not loose sleep over is that Yankee Stadium will not become America Online Time Warner Stadium. It will remain Yankee Stadium. What will change about the stadium, however? According to the Yankees, despite the new stadium being 63 percent larger, the seating capacity will be reduced from 57,545 to 53,000.

The new seating arrangement will place fans lower, but farther away from the field than the current stadium. Monument Park, a main attraction of Yankee Stadium, will simply be relocated to the New Yankee Stadium and the dimensions of the playing field will remain the same. All of this begs the question, why build the new stadium if the only significant improvement will be the increase in "modern amenities?"

At the end of the season, when they tear down Yankee Stadium, we will be left with an expensive photocopy of what used to be. Within that photocopy there will undoubtedly be pictures of the old stadium and for \$35, you might even be able to buy a small souvenir replica to place somewhere significant.

We will comment as to how much we miss it and how great it was, like we do regarding Ebbets Field and the Polo Grounds, but we will move on. Baseball is called America's pastime, but in this game that is based so heavily on tradition, tradition is what this game seems to be lacking.

Pierce Bulls Stampede Valley Nine



SCOTT MITCHELL / VALLEY STAR

OUT AT SECOND - Valley College second baseman, Justin Kaid, prepares to tag out Pierce College's Calvin Culber during the Monarch's 6-1 loss to the Brahmas at Kelly Field, April 19.

By SCOTT MITCHELL
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

With the playoffs just around the corner, the Monarch baseball team picked the wrong time of the season to leave their bats at home, losing 6-1 April 19 to Pierce College.

The Brahma Bulls took a two-run lead in the first inning and held on to it. Monarch starting pitcher Drew Vassil kept his cool and found his pitching rhythm in the middle innings.

Strong defensive efforts and key plays by shortstop JP Hollywood and second baseman Justin Kaid kept the Monarchs in the game. Catcher Mitch

Garcia made an exceptional save on a pitch in the dirt and recovered in time to throw out a base runner who was trying to steal second.

The Valley bats were silent. Fly balls made their way into the gloves of Pierce outfielders 14 times and the Monarch coaches became frustrated with the lack of discipline that some of their players exhibited at the plate.

With two outs in the third inning, Alex Gaudiioso singled to start a Monarch rally. The momentum of the game began to shift and the starting pitcher for the Brahmas had problems with the placement of his pitches. The Monarchs filled the bases but scored their only run of the game when Angel Nunez was hit by a pitch with two outs. The Monarchs were positioned to have a big inning, but the next batter hit the first pitch to a defender for the third out.

Pierce bounced back in the bottom of the inning and scored their third run of the day on an RBI single into center field by Cole McCune.

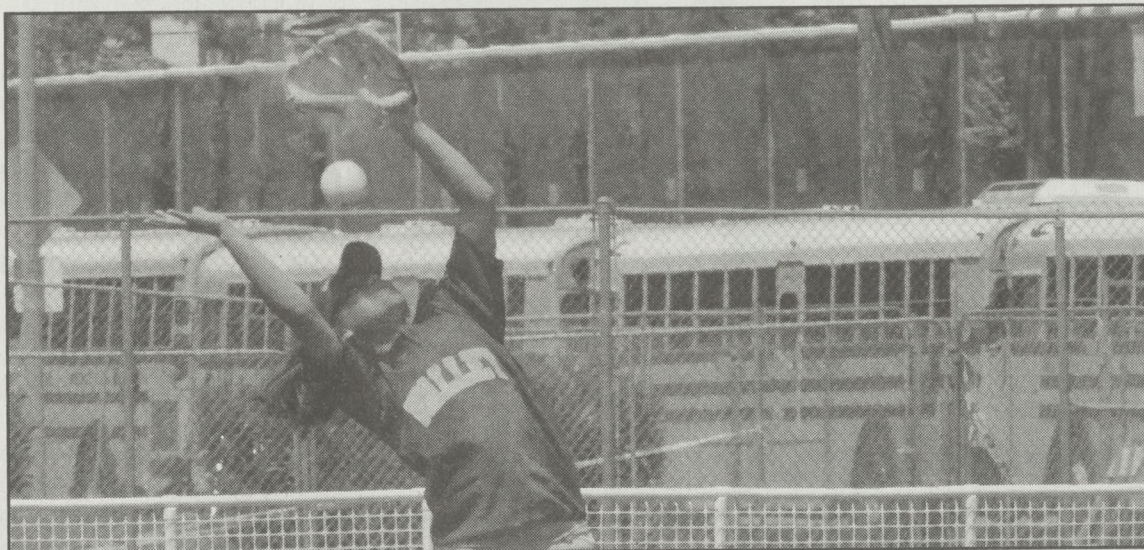
Simply put, Valley often failed to convert scoring opportunities into runs. In the 4th inning, the base runner on 3rd base hesitated to run home after a potential sacrifice fly was sent into the outfield.

"Put pressure on the other team and make things happen!" Coach Tom Mallas, shouted to his club. "When was the last time that you saw anyone get thrown out at home plate by a sacrifice fly to the outfield? It just doesn't happen."

Nunez had a lead-off single in the top of the 6th inning, but the next batter hit into a double play. The inning ended quietly. Coach Mallas challenged the team at the top of the 7th, asking, "Who is going to be the guy that is going to turn it around?"

The Monarchs went down in order and quietly lost 6-1.

MISSED IT BY THAT MUCH....



SCOTT MITCHELL / VALLEY STAR

VALIANT EFFORT - Lady Monarch second baseman Erica Nolasco gives it her all to hang on to a fly ball hit into shallow right field in game one of a double header against Mission College April 22.

THE NEXT TWO

Baseball
4/24 @ Glendale 2:30 p.m.
4/24 vs Glendale 1 p.m.

Swimming & Diving
4/24-26 WSC Champ. @ Ventura
5/1-3 State Champ. @ Saddleback

Track & Field
4/26 WSC Finals @ Moorpark
5/3 Prelims @ Bakersfield

Baseball
4/29 vs. Bakersfield 2:30 p.m.
5/1 @ Bakersfield 2:30 p.m.

NEWS

7

'Cal Grant'

continued from page 1

lowest amount of money from the Cal Grant program. California community colleges don't charge an annual tuition, so that portion of the grant is held for the student until they enroll at a university that does.

"It's pretty messed up," said sports management major Eve Williams. "There's a lot of people that really need [Cal Grant.] I don't understand why they would cut it."

Currently, the access grant is the weakest part of the Cal Grant package, which, according to the Institute for College Access and Success grew only 10 percent since 1991. In contrast, gasoline prices in California grew 76 percent throughout the same time-frame.

The elimination of competitive Cal Grants leaves 22,500 eligible community college students in the cold, and constitutes a 45 percent reduction in those

receiving Cal Grants throughout the community college system, according to the institute.

"It's terrible, they should cut other things, not aid programs," said Selma Cohen of the Valley counseling center. "If students can't get help paying for classes, they can't go to school."

The Institute for College Access and Success states that the will cuts hit community colleges the hardest, as many students are disproportionately older and thrown into the competitive pool. Meanwhile, Cal Grant applicants at the University of California and California State University system are chiefly applying straight out of high school and eligible for the much larger entitlement grant.

Barbara Ralston, the director of Valley's Financial Aid department commented on how the cuts will affect Valley students. "You'll probably see students who normally have qualified for [Cal Grant]; they may feel that there's no other alternative and they have to work instead of go to school, which will be catastrophic."

During his run in Sacramento, Beall has concentrated a great deal on underage drinking. He is campaigning a separate bill that would force the sweet alcoholic malt beverages known as "alco-pops" to include warning labels stating they contain alcohol.

In 2007, Beall successfully persuaded the state Franchise Tax Board to tax "alco-pops" at the same value to hard liquor products instead of beer - which was expected to raise the price of a six pack by approximately \$2. The increase is scheduled to go into effect later this year.

'Same Sex'

continued from page 1

Protection Act was introduced by a coalition of public officials, churches and individuals in November 2007 and is currently processing the signatures to be sent to election officials. According to the Website, the organization is short 50,000 signatures of the necessary 694,354 valid signatures that are required. The last day to turn them in is April 28, 2008.

The amendment to the state's constitution would establish that "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California," according to the coalition's title and summary of the measure. If the initiative is successful, it would mean that the legislature's power to pass a marriage bill would be undermined by the constitutional amendment. It would limit the authority of the courts, so that cases heading toward same-sex marriage would be stopped or reversed.

The group cites Proposition 22 in support of their pursuit. The initiative, which passed with a 61.4 percent approval of California voters in 2000, added a regular statute to the California Family Code making unions between men and women the only valid form of marriage. "An amendment to the California Constitution, which requires a vote of the people, is the only way to stop the politicians, and especially the courts, from redefining marriage against the will of the majority of Californians."

'Privacy'

continued from page 1

all times and Nodal says that when a clinic or hospital gives out the Notice of Privacy Practices, it is an indication that they are reputable and trustworthy.

"There is no risk of a security breach at Valley because only Student Health Center staff have access to our files," she said.

Student Freddie Cortez was waiting in the Health Center lobby and said the UCLA breach did not make him worry about his privacy.

"I think my information is safe...I trust [the health center staff] with my information and I know its going to be kept private."

While students are not so concerned about their private records, it is the openness around the health center and its waiting area

that is on their minds.

"I don't like that your name and student ID number are sitting there on the [lobby] counter for everyone to see," said Josh Logan Wible, a film major. "[Students] may not know what you are there for, but they know you are there for something."

Wible also voiced concern about peers being able to listen in when students are making appointments or describing their ailments to staff, a concern shared by fellow student DeAngelo Hicks.

"When you're at the window and its something serious or embarrassing, people are around and it's not discreet," said Hicks, who has used the health center approximately three times.

Yasmin Delahoussaye, vice president of student services said that concerns about the location of the health center lobby will soon be a thing of the past, when the health center is relocated. As part of the college master plan, the health center will move into the current Associated Student Union offices when the ASU shifts into the new Student Services Building, which starts construction this year.

"The Health Center moving into the Campus Center will give students the degree of privacy they deserve," said Delahoussaye.

However, for Valley students like Elena Golobaneba, Proposition 22 clashes with the view of California as a broad-minded state.

"If there is a demand, there should be a supply," Golobaneba said. "I don't think there is something bad about [gay marriage], especially in California, since it's considered to be the freest of the states."

Jose Cubias, another Valley student, agrees. "Anything that has to do with marriage, the government should have no role in it ... It's that simple."

The LGBTQ club has been working with organizations like Equality for All, a coalition born in response to the propositions targeted against the gay community, to obstruct the collection of signatures.

Representatives from Equality for All recently visited the club, explaining the situation and encouraging members to spread the word. Some LGBTQ members volunteered to join the coalition's mission to stop the petition by protesting at places where signature gatherers congregate.

However, the success of such a measure seems unlikely to James Hart, vice-president of the LGBTQ club. "I don't think it will succeed in California, but I think it has enough momentum to hurt people."

Hart added that he hopes students "increase their own personal awareness on the subject of the LGBTQ community, and should remember that their vote always counts." In a surprising turn of events, given his record on the subject of gay marriage, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has vowed to oppose the initiative should it reach the ballot.

'Election'

continued from page 1

voted."

Kiridjian attributed the low number of votes to a lack of student awareness about the ASU and said she felt more publicity and time would increase votes.

"I would just suggest that the next year's board, along with the lobby committee, come up with a new and unique strategy to getting students to vote," Kiridjian said. "Perhaps a mentoring program for the candidates. Walking a day in our shoes really shows students what we (ASU) really do."

What students said more election announcements and visibility could possibly improve voter turnout.

"I didn't vote because I had no idea there were elections," said Valley student Jasmine Nguyen. "I would have voted if I knew. Maybe they should post more signs around the campus so students would know about it."

Wible and the new board are set to take over at the end of May, and he said he is going to meet with Kiridjian soon to ease

the transition and get a quick start on his plans.

"We have a long summer ahead of us planning this out but we have some big things in store for the fall," Wible said. "I'm going to be spending as much time as I can alongside Mari in a shadowing and mentoring phase to transition into the new government."

For her part, Kiridjian said she is leaving behind a set of ASU journals that she had each commissioner keep as a blueprint for the new board and is optimistic about Wible's future.

"I think Josh will be an awesome president," Kiridjian said. "He is very passionate about the position. I will be working with him until the semester ends because it's not easy to pick up where someone left off if you have no clue what to do."

Other positions appointed through the elections were vice president, commissioners of public relations, student and social affairs, political affairs and athletics. Students also voted for candidates running for an open position as a Los Angeles Community College District student trustee, including Jamoeo Black, the current ASU vice president.

'Smoking'

continued from page 2

said Chris Mower, a computer science major who smokes around the horse shoe area in Monarch Square.

Mower said he is one of approximately 20 students who gather in the horse shoe area to release stress by smoking. Last Wednesday,

this group of students began circulating a petition to make it a designated smoking area.

Jacobsmeier said the same request was made before and was denied because the smoke would penetrate the Campus Center and Humanities building. The campus smoking policy requires that designated smoking areas to be at least 20 feet away from buildings.

CORRECTION BOX

Due to an editing error last week, Tracee Porter's name was misspelled in "Famed Writer Gore Vidal Visits Valley." Also, the application deadline date was incorrect in the story "Nursing Program Opens Doors." The correct date is April 30.

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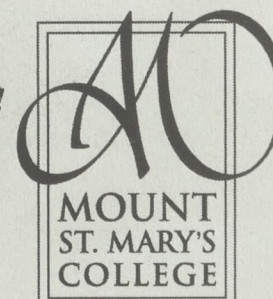
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NO HOLDING BACK - Relief pitcher Tyler Bussard doesn't let a 5-run deficit get in the way of his "give it all you got" performance on the mound against the Pierce College Brahmas on April 19.

BAND OF BROTHERS: MONARCH BASEBALL 2008

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY
SCOTT MITCHELL

The 2008 Monarch baseball season has been an exciting adventure for the team, the coaches, the school and the fans. Head coach Dave Mallas and his dedicated staff have provided the team with the tools, direction, motivation and leadership that are necessary for a winning season.

The formula worked and this baseball "Band of Brothers" responded to the challenge. At the time this article went to press, the Monarchs overall season record was 21-18 with a Western State conference record of 13-10. With five games left in the regular season, the Monarch men have a

strong shot at making the playoffs. They are in a position to control their own destiny.

The 2008 baseball season has proven to be a roller coaster ride of adventure and misadventure. We saw it all. High scoring games. Low scoring games. Games that came down to the wire and games that went into extra innings. Blowouts and give aways. Big wins and big losses. Big surprises and big disappointments. Injuries, slumps, streaks, and peaks. More wins than losses!

There is still time to enjoy and support the 2008 Monarch baseball team. They play Glendale College at home on April 26 at 1 p.m. and Bakersfield on April 29 at 2:30 p.m.



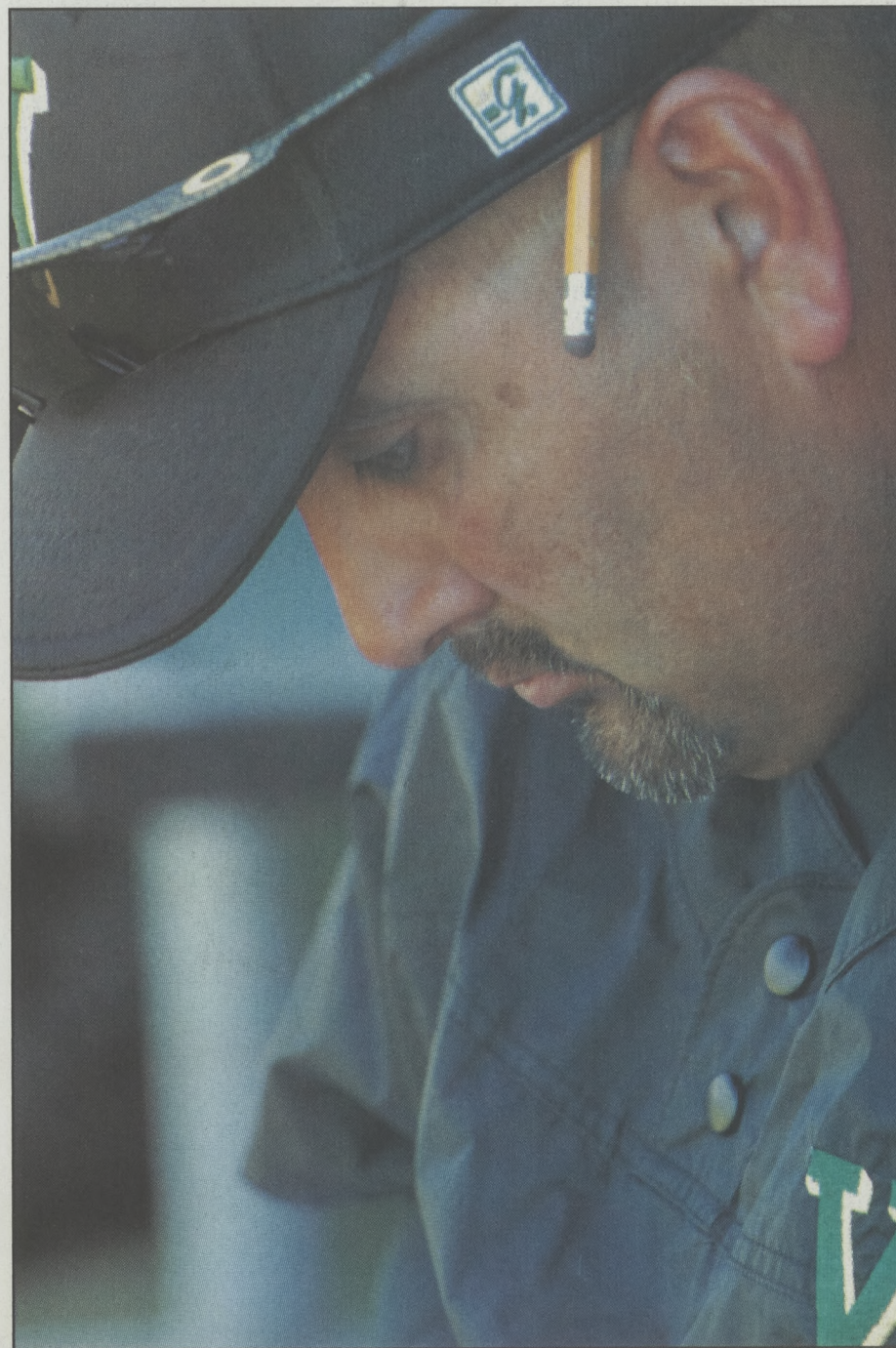
CLOSE CALL - Valley freshman first baseman Jimmy Duran is tagged out in a close play at third base during the middle innings of the Monarch's lopsided 18-7 win over Moorpark at home on Feb. 15.



GOOD TIMES - Mitch Garcia shares some laughs with teammates in the dug-out before the game at Pierce College's Kelly Field on April 19.



VICTORY CELEBRATION - Eddie Urquiza (left) races toward third base as the rest of the Valley College baseball team congratulate Drew Vassil after he scored the winning run in a 12-inning nail biter against Pierce College at Pike Field March 13.



DEDICATED COACHING STAFF - Monarch assistant coach Andi Rodriguez shares his love of the game and prior baseball experience from his days as a competitor with yet another generation of Valley College baseball players. Led by head coach Dave Mallas, the Monarch coaching staff offer those who choose to learn and do the work a world of valuable lessons that can be applied on and off the field.